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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 29 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

I have the honour to address you, in your capacity as Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, in relation to the attached note verbale dated 29 June 2010 sent to the United States Mission to the United Nations (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

10-43634 (E) 020710

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Annex to the letter dated 29 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United States Mission to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the latter's note verbale dated 24 May 2010 concerning the denial of a United States entry visa to Mohammad Mehdi Akhondzadeh Basti, Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs. It is noted that the note verbale replicates the same explanations given by the representative of the United States before the Committee on Relations with the Host Country at its 246th meeting, on 20 May 2010.

While appreciating the efforts of the host country in discharging its international obligations, particularly those under the Headquarters Agreement, concerning prompt issuance of visas for representatives of Member States to attend United Nations meetings, the Islamic Republic of Iran deems the explanations given by the United States Mission as to the denial of a visa for Akhondzadeh Basti unacceptable. That the host country issued United States entry visas for other members of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the 2010 NPT Review Conference does not give an excuse to deny a visa to the Deputy Foreign Minister. Nor does it relieve the Government of the United States of its responsibility to fully abide by its international obligations. Moreover, Mr. Akhondzadeh had first applied for the United States entry visa on 30 November 2009. He applied for a third time on 11 March 2010, well in advance of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. The host country authorities had ample time, therefore, for processing his visa applications.

The Islamic Republic of Iran would like to underline, once again, the responsibility of the Government of the United States in carrying out its obligations under the Headquarters Agreement, and reiterates its calls to the host country authorities to abide by their international obligations with regard to prompt issuance of visas for representatives of Member States to attend United Nations meetings.

New York, 29 June 2010